This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	Protein phosphatase 2A (PPP2CA; PP2A); collapsin response mediator protein-2 (DPYSL2; CRMP-2)	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies suggest that upregulating PP2A could help regenerate axons to treat AD and other neurodegenerative diseases. <i>In vitro</i> , upregulation of a subunit of PP2A led to dephosphorylation of CRMP-2, which triggered axon polarization and growth. In rat embryos, brain delivery of small interfering RNA against the PP2A subunit blocked growth of neurofibers compared with delivery of scrambled siRNA. Next steps could include determining the effects of PP2A upregulation in animal models of AD.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Zhu, L. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online March 10, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5174-09.2010 Contact: Jian-Zhi Wang, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China e-mail: wangjz@mails.tjmu.edu.cn
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